



In the Shade

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May 2007

Vicente Navarro Wins TTCC Master's Challenge

Vicente Navarro of Bartlett Tree Experts in Dallas took home the Houser cup this year. Vicente was the only climber to complete the Master's Challenge tree to become the Texas chapter tree climbing champion for 2007. He will compete for the world champion title in Honolulu, Hawaii this summer.

The Texas Tree Climbing Championship



Vicente Navarro, winner of the 2007 Master's Challenge.

is composed of five preliminary events and a Master's Challenge.

The preliminary events are: work climb (tests ability to move throughout a tree), aerial rescue (tests ability to safely bring an injured tree worker to the ground), throw line (tests ability to set a climbing line into a tree from the ground), and two speed climb events (tests ability to quickly ascend

Cont'd on p. 3

Time's Running Short; Register Now for NOWS

It's not too late to register for the National Oak Wilt Symposium (NOWS) June 4-7 at the Hilton Hotel in Austin.

NOWS will provide an unparalleled venue for sharing information about prevention, early detection, control and management, restoration, and research.

In addition to two days of presentatins by researchers, foresters and arborists from across the nation, there will be field trips, a Texas-style barbecue, and ample time to network with those directly involved in studying or managing oak wilt.

The year 2007 marks the 20th anniversary of the Texas Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project (see article on page 12). Lessons learned from this multi-agency project will be discussed in both oral presentations and field trips.

Topics to be covered at the Symposium include:

- The genus Quercus and the genus Ceratocystis
- Oak wilt biology and host-pathogen relationships
- Oak wilt impacts in different regions of the U.S.

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President's Message *by Gene Gehring*

I would like to thank everyone who acknowledged my last presidents' message. I do not have a passion for writing, but passion is the theme for this edition's message.

When you are truly passionate about what you are doing, it ceases to be a chore or a job. Many successful people truly enjoy what they are doing. They can't wait to get to the office or the jobsite. The challenge of the task is both rewarding and fun. That must be the way the competitors and many of the judges at this year's Texas Tree Climbing Championship feel. The Masters challenge was a truly wicked climb. Only one of the four competitors who made the Masters actually finished within the allotted time. (Please read the accompanying article and pictures about this year's Texas Tree Climbing Championship.)

There are other ways to be passionate about trees besides climbing. The conference committee is hard at work developing "The Roots of Arboriculture" tree conference which will be October 10-12 in Waco. They are considering inviting Nelda Matheny, who is passionate about trees and tree care.

It is difficult to admit, but I am passionate when it comes to oak wilt. Why else would I attend every workshop that mentions oak wilt, even though I have heard it before? Like the workshop being held May 10-11 at the Extension complex on Coit Rd (See Industry Calendar for more details). It is the same one that was held in San Antonio and Austin, with a slight twist to emphasize dealing with the problem in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

I will then be taking the time out of a busy month to attend the National Oak Wilt Symposium being held June 5-7 in Austin. I would strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity. An event of this caliber is not often held in Texas (or anywhere for that matter). It features 15 researchers who have studied different aspects of the oak wilt disease, a prominent researcher on bacterial leaf scorch, and the leading authority on sudden oak death. Even if you do not share my passion for dying trees, you can still get **22 ISA CEUs**.

Passion can be a strong motivator. Some people are passionate about fishing. They will get up before daylight in all kinds of weather to get to the lake. Others are passionate about hunting; they will sit in a blind in freezing weather for that one shot. These same people will use the threat of rain or an early start time as an excuse for not wanting to work. They do not have the same passion for what they do 40+ hours a week as they do for other things in their life. Life is too short to spend the majority of your week doing something you dread. I think most of the Arborists I know are passionate about what they do, because if it was strictly about the money, there are easier, more lucrative ways to make a living.

"He that plants trees loves others beside himself."

— Thomas Fuller

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Texas Tree Climbing Championships

Continued from Page 1

into a tree). The top four qualifiers from the preliminary rounds go head to head in the Master's Challenge.

The Master's Challenge is a combination of throw-line, speed climb and work climb. The winner of the Master's Challenge is the winner of the competition; the preliminary stats do not effect the results of the Master's Challenge.

Miguel Pastenes of Arborilogical Services in Wylie took home first place in all five preliminary events. This is the first time one person has won every prelim. Miguel finished in 2nd place for the Master's Challenge. Abram Zies of Arbor Care in Ft. Worth finished 3rd, and Jimmy Prichard of Integrity Tree Care in Ft. Worth finished as the 4th best climber of the weekend.

Renee Burke in Plano served as a gracious host to the competition; Bob Woodruff Park is a genuine spectacle. I recommend any tree enthusiast visit the trees in this park.

Special thanks to Nevic Donnelly, Chris Brewer and Kevin Bassett for all their work coordinating the event; also to all the volunteers who made time in their busy lives to come and help.

Be sure to support our sponsors: Stihl chainsaws, Poston Equipment, Vermeer of Texas, Sherrill arborist supply and Arbormaster training.

*–Keith Brown
TxTCC Chairman*

Preliminary results:

1. Miguel Pastenes
2. Abram Zies
3. Vicente Navarro
4. Jimmy Prichard
5. Nicolas Martinez
6. Bonifacio Carlos
7. Francisco Carlos
8. David Arenas
9. Martin Carlos
10. Jimmy Saucien
11. Javiar Avilles
12. Keith Brown
13. Jake McWhorter
14. Jose Navarro
15. Joey Pritchard
16. Teo Vasquez
17. Kenny Baldwin
18. Jose Palacios
19. Oscar Dorantes
20. Nathan Wreyford
21. Horacio Compos
22. Nicanor Buitron
23. David Williams



Equipment Inspection: Competitor Miguel Pastenes (r) with Tech Kristian Schutz, CTSP- Michigan. Miguel was the first contestant ever to win all five preliminary events.

24. Chris Cantrel
25. James Wright
26. James Faulks

ArborMaster® Climbing Prize Package

In addition to free travel to the 2007 International Tree Climbing Championships in Hawaii, this year's Texas Tree Climbing Champion will also receive an ArborMaster® Climbing Prize Package.

The prize package includes:

- Husqvarna 338 XPT
- \$50 gift certificate from Sherrill Tree
- 150' ArborMaster® Climbing Line with eye splice from Samson Rope Technologies
- 50% savings on an ArborMaster® 2-Day Training Module
- \$100 gift certificate from Buckingham Mfg
- Buckingham Rope Bag

Sponsors are Husquvarna, Sherrill Tree, Samson, Buckingham, Vermeer, and ArborMaster.





Scenes from the TTCC

TOP LEFT Scorer's table: Gene Gehring, Bryan White and Renee Burke.

LEFT Footlock Event: Competitor Kenneth Baldwin and judges Jim Bill Kanag and Jim Breaguh.

BELOW Dallas Mayor Laura Miller competed in the piñata event.

BOTTOM: Twenty-seven climbers competed in this year's Texas Tree Climbing Championship.



Now's the Time to Register for Nows

Continued from Page 1

- Oak wilt vector relationships
- Modeling oak wilt on a landscape scale
- Impact on endangered species
- Wounds as infection courts for oak wilt
- Hypovirulence as a potential biocontrol
- Suppression tactics, including trench inserts
- Injection of fungicides and movement in trees
- Longevity of propiconazole injections
- Oak wilt control from a neighborhood perspective
- USDA Forest Service perspectives on oak wilt
- Other diseases of oaks, including sudden oak death and bacterial leaf scorch

Registration before May 4 is \$295; \$350 after. You can register using our secure online system. Or to register by fax or email, download and complete the Nows registration packet. For more information or to register, go to www.isatexas.com.

ISAT is sponsoring the Symposium, with cooperation from:

- Texas Forest Service
- Texas Cooperative Extension
- The Nature Conservancy of Texas
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
- USDA Forest Service
- Forest Health Protection.

Man Killed While Trimming Tree

An amateur tree-trimmer, working on limbs 30 feet above the ground, was killed in Fairfax County, VA when a branch splintered and struck him in the neck, police said.

Officers said the man had been hired by the owner of an empty house to prune an oak tree in the back yard. The man had already trimmed several limbs when he cut most of the way through a large branch that snapped back and struck him.

Investigators said they think that the victim was unemployed and that the new homeowner had hired him so he could make some money.

Experts said that significant tree work should be handled by professionals. "Tree care is one of the most hazardous professions," said John Sevier, an arborist and tree accident expert in San Diego who analyzes tree-related injuries and deaths.

"What makes tree accidents so common is that tree workers are suspended in the air," Sevier said. "And you're running a chain saw, which adds another element of danger." Tree-trimmers also come into contact with overhead power lines.

Such hazards help explain "why a properly trained, certified arborist charges a substantial fee. It's because we have to have the safety equipment, the training" and certification, he said.

Sevier said property owners should hire only certified arborists, who carry a card from the International Society of Arboriculture. For large jobs, consumers should be sure that the arborist is a licensed contractor who will be able to assume full responsibility and have the proper equipment.

—from a Washington Post article by Tom Jackman, March 30, 2007

Municipal Specialist Update

ISAT is proud to announce that Nelda Matheny, of Hortscience Inc. and author of many industry books and reference materials, will be presenting at the 2007 Texas Tree Conference in Waco. The conference is scheduled for October 10-12, and the theme is "The Roots of Arboriculture." Ms. Matheny is currently compiling a study guide for the ISA Municipal Specialist Certification, and she will be discussing aspects of the study guide in a workshop prior to the conference in October. More conference information will be issued as the date approaches.

Please take a minute and read the CEU article, "Managing Risk in The Urban Forest" in the current issue of *Arborist News*. ISA includes a CEU article in every issue of *Arborist News*, and it's worth one CEU credit without even leaving the comfort of the couch... **Check it out!**

—Jim Carse

Utility Corner

Rich Hendler and Rob Brooks, Dow AgroSciences, recently hosted the 2007 SEUM (South East Utility Meeting) at the Fort Worth Stockyards Hotel. Utility foresters and administrators from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico discussed hot topic issues such as recent FERC, NERC and PUC regulatory changes and requirements, maintenance practices and cycles, bid processes, surviving regulatory audits and general 'good ole' networking. Federal regulation now requires documentation of a formal transmission vegetation management plan, an annual work plan to ensure system reliability and quarterly reporting of any vegetation-related transmission outages.

Many thanks to all the ISAT members in attendance, and to their sharing of extremely useful information.

—James Koenig

South East Utility Meeting in Fort Worth



International Board Report – Part 1 of 2

ISA Board of Directors

Renaissance Grand Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

Board Dialogue Session, February 24, 2007

International Development Committee presentation

Facilitator Bonnie Koenig, Jim Skiera, deGourét Litchfield, and Mark Bluhm gave a presentation demonstrating what internationalization is and how ISA can further tree care by being more international. The concept was that there is no one way to further the ISA mission, rather several, and being international is working together to help each of those ways advance. This concept will lead to a broader area providing good tree care.

The board split into smaller groups to answer questions including

- Do you concur with the strategies the IDC has laid out? What others would you add?
- Do you concur with the measuring schematic the staff has laid out? Other suggestions?
- What do you believe should be the motivating factors for continued internationalization?
- What do you feel the chapters/PAs/AOs could do to contribute more to internationalization?

- What could you do to help move ISA along the spectrum? (Has anything prevented you from doing this in the past)?

The board then regrouped to discuss the different answers. Bonnie Koenig gathered the verbal reports along with each of the groups' written items in order to merge into a document to send back to committee. Highlights of these reports included:

- All groups report that each is still committed to the ISA mission.
- Are we still committed to moving along the internationalization spectrum? Yes
- Strategies developed by IDC were accepted with some comments and feedback given to help clarify some points
- Key driver to internationalization is exchange of knowledge. This exchange (two-way sharing) has to happen in many different ways.
 - Promoting a sister chapter concept was common among the groups
 - Exchanging speakers between chapters was a common point.
 - Information exchange was perceived as the main driver of internationalization
- Measuring schematic – generally supportive – good start. Needs to be more specific and be tied into budget. Important to measure direct and indirect cost and benefits.
- Questions to be answered - Who will be responsible for moving this forward? Who will be accountable?

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2012 Conference Presentation

Maureen Clampitt, regional director of sales with the Portland, Oregon Visitors Association, gave a short presentation on the city of Portland and what it had to offer for an ISA conference.

Governance Task Force presentation

GTF Chair Bob Haines and Facilitator Joe McLennan led further discussion of the operational recommendations. Again the board divided into small groups to answer questions including:

- What is a sufficient number of board members to ensure proper representation yet, be able to carry on productive discussions and debates?
- What are your thoughts on the role of the board versus the role of the EC at this stage of ISA's development?
- What is your table's opinion on the future of the Governance Task Force? Should it continue? If so, under what conditions and with what expectations?

The board regrouped to discuss the answers, which were noted and given to the Governance Task Force for review.

C & B Public Review

Bill Fountain gave a brief oral report asking the board to read the written report provided in the board packet. He

asked that the board get comments to him no later than April 2, 2007.

Board Member Term Limits

Morrell asked the Board to consider adopting term limits for Board Vice Presidents as work continued on with the Governance Task Force and the Constitution and Bylaws revisions. Benefits discussed were that it would allow a greater number of individuals to bring their diverse backgrounds to leadership roles in ISA.

Parliamentary Procedure Review

Professional Parliamentarian Chris Dickey spoke for about an hour on the basics of parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. Dickey provided an overview of properly making motions and amendments, and voting. She also provided a handout that board members could use as a "cheat sheet" to follow these rules correctly. Dickey translated each of her examples into situations that the ISA Board could relate to, and was invited to join the board for the official meeting on Sunday.

Department Updates

Due to the board spending so much time in executive session, it was decided that the departmental updates would be posted online for all board members to review. The following is a brief set of highlights from each update.

Membership

- Membership is up.
- Minneapolis Conference went very well and met budget expectations.
- Exhibitors do not like going to Hawaii for the conference and are voting with their wallets.
- The TreesAreGood Web site will launch a designed site by the end of March and has officially changed its URL to www.treesaregood.org ("org" not ".com"). Both URLs will work, though the P&IR committee and the consultant thought the ".org" showed less bias and was more trustworthy.

Certification

- We are running ahead of last year's record pace with new Certified Arborist applications.
- The board has approved a new test administration policy so that we have a standard policy and procedure to manage our test banks outside of the U.S. and Canada.
- We are reviewing the possibility of computer-based testing as an alternative to the paper-pencil exams.
- We are moving forward with ISO 17024 Accreditation now that we feel all of our policies are in place.

Educational Goods and Services

- Publications sales are on a record pace due to strong marketing and continued new releases (nine products completed since '06 conference).
- Continuing emphasis on translation projects and dictionary development; joint project with EAC to develop online translation tool.

- Making big strides with science and research (lit. reviews, researcher summit, AUF improvements).
- Conference Program Committee added to EGS; will restructure and develop processes.
- All other EGS committees are active and have developed structure and policy statements.

Finance & Administration

- Building strong foundations through Funds Management & Investments, Information Technology (IT), Operations, and Staff Development.
- Finance - Quarterly results and operation reports continue to be sent to the Board of Directors. 2006-2007 is shaping up to be another successful year financially.
- The weighted average return on the reserve accounts was 17.41% for calendar year 2006.
- Information Technology (IT)
 - Second annual security audit completed in January 2007. No critical security risks were found.
 - Work continues for arboriculture research on Web.
 - Certification and Membership applications may now be submitted online.
 - Find a Tree Care Service – launched January 2, 2007.
- Building/Space Considerations – Analyzing space alternatives – expansion, telecommuting, leasing, buying, building. The architecture firm who provided the last Board analysis in 1997 is to review current spatial needs and options.
- Chapter/PA support - Leadership Workshop 2006 was a success with plans already starting in order to build on the 2006 agenda. Chapter Toolbox is being built and interactive forum is available.
- Staff training on True Colors, education on 401 K & financial planning, IT advances, conference and tradeshow planning, and 2007 emphasizing human resource issues.

–from Mike Walterscheidt, ISAT Executive Director
Part 2 of the ISA Board Report will appear in the July issue.

Certification Test Dates

Date	Location	Check In	Application Cut Off
June 15	Fort Worth, TX Tarrant County College Northwest Campus 4801 Marine Creek Pkwy.	TBA	May 31
Aug.30	Round Rock, TX 301 W. Bagdad Rd., Bldg. 2	12 noon	Aug.14
Oct. 10	Waco	4 pm	Sep. 24

Check the ISAT website – www.isatexas.com – for updates.
Important Reminder: The test application form must be at ISA's office with your check 16 calendar days before the test date or you will not be allowed to take the exam.



COMPONENTS OF DIAGNOSIS, PART 2: LIMBS & BRANCHES

Last time we discussed disease development in the foliage and twigs. This time we look at limbs and branches.

Many times a generic type symptom begins to be expressed in the leaves as a disruption—somewhere behind the leaves—in the sequence of the vascular flow. This disruption usually affects the flow of moisture and raw materials such as in the xylem. Remember now that disruption in the phloem, which carries manufactured carbohydrates and various proteins, is traveling away from the leaves. If there is a phloem-infecting pathogen, it may take longer for leaves to express any symptoms. Many fungal pathogens infect both areas of the vascular flow and the disruption in the xylem is much more readily expressed in leaves. I mention this because these visible signs are where we and the lay people are most quickly alerted to a potential problem.

Fungal pathogens that infect limbs and branches will usually produce a series of reproductive structures that are expressed by dark or black eruptions through the thin outer layer of bark. These areas collectively are often termed “cankers.” Many minor or less aggressive fungal pathogens fail to colonize or spread very far up limbs or branches due to the tree’s defenses. These defenses often slow or stop movement of the pathogen, allowing the tree to seal off or compartmentalize the pathogen. More aggressive types of pathogens may be able to overcome the tree’s defenses. In these cases, the organism spreads up twigs, branches, and limbs to eventually colonize or spread into trunk tissue. These are of major concern to us as canker type diseases are very difficult to manage

and are often left up to the tree’s defenses alone.

A tree’s defense can be enhanced by improving overall health and vigor through providing nutrients that may be deficient due to poor soil conditions. I believe it is safe to say that nearly all weak canker type diseases are stress-related. This is often true in the case of more aggressive pathogens that are allowed to colonize the tree more quickly due to problems relating to poor soil, poor nutrient availability, moisture stress, root loss, and many other issues that negatively affect a tree, reducing vigor or vitality.

Fungal pathogens that infect limbs and branches are nearly impossible to diagnose from the type of foliar symptom that develops. This is true of many fungal pathogens that develop very similar types of reproductive structures.

Early on, I always had these types of problems sampled and sent to the laboratory for analysis and isolation. Once I became very familiar with the subtle differences between pathogens, I found that I could often narrow down the possibilities to three or four. Unfortunately, there is often little to do to manage the infection except through improvement of vigor as mentioned before, possibly pruning out the infection if isolated to a small area and not too advanced. Some injection techniques have been developed in recent years with varied success rates.

I have mentioned very few specific pathogens here, for it is nearly impossible to properly describe these other than my interpretation of what I see. These descriptions would not be enough to accurately go out and

diagnose a specific pathogen. What is important is that foliar symptoms may not always be a result of foliar infection.

Proper sampling of canker diseases for diagnosis by a laboratory is of utmost importance. If you will gently shave off the thin outer bark tissue to reveal sapwood, you should always try to find limb and branch tissue with both healthy and infected tissue. The infected tissue will usually have a stained or darkened appearance in the sapwood. Remove the thin outer bark until you find an area with healthy or whitish sapwood. This portion of the healthy and infected tissue will usually be the optimum area along the limb or branch where the pathogen will be recovered by the lab. Sending only dead or infected tissue with no healthy tissue attached may yield secondary or non-pathogenic organisms that quickly invade dead tissue, providing lab results of little or no help to you in the development of a potential management strategy.

Little has been mentioned about bacterial type infections as very few infect trees. By and large, these types of infections usually produce very wet or water-soaked tissue quite unlike fungal pathogens, which almost always dry the tissue. Management of bacterial diseases will be limited to one of just two antibiotics labeled for use on ornamental trees and plants.

“All grand strategies eventually deteriorate into work.”

— Peter Drucker

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

May 10–11

Identification and Management of Oak Wilt Workshop – Cooperative Extension Complex, Dallas. The Texas Forest Service and the Texas Chapter ISA are hosting a third workshop for ISA Certified Arborists on how to identify and manage oak wilt. Registration will begin April 1 so all interested arborists are urged to become Certified Arborists before that date! See the ISAT website, www.isatexas.com.

May 24

Storms and Trees Summit 2007 – Harris County Flood Control District, 7522 Prairie Oak Dr., Houston. Learn to prepare and recover from major storm events. Registration is \$65 and seating is limited. For more information visit www.isatexas.com/images/temp_pics/workshops/Storms_07_Save_The_Date.jpg or contact Micky Merritt at 713-688-8931 or mmerritt@tfs.tamu.edu

June 4–7

National Oak Wilt Symposium – The Texas Chapter ISA is sponsoring the Second National Oak Wilt Symposium. at the Hilton Austin. Learn how private landowners, arborists, local communities, cities, state and federal agencies are working together to effectively manage this disease in Texas and elsewhere. Plus, 2007 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Texas Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project. Find out what has been learned from this multiagency effort. Get the whole story at www.isatexas.com.

July 28 – August 1

ISA 83rd Annual Conference and Trade Show – Honolulu, HI. Visit www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx

October 10–12

21st Texas Tree Conference – Waco. This year's theme is "The Roots of Arboriculture" Contact Jordy Hagen jordy4trees@satx.rr.com, to volunteer or for more information.

October 19–21

ISA Fall Leadership Workshop, Champaign, Illinois. For more information: www.isa-arbor.com/calendar/calendar.aspx



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ISA Hispanic Committee Update – Part 2

by Mark L. Duff

Part 1 of this report, outlining the history of the ISA Hispanic Committee, appeared in March.

Taking Action

In response to the concerns identified at the USDA Forest Service Hispanic Tree Care Worker Initiative in Atlanta in 2000, the ISA Hispanic Committee stepped up to the plate to help specifically address the safety issues and lack of training opportunities, and to provide much needed properly translated material as well as new articles in Spanish.

1. Created Phase I of the website www.ISAHispana.com with the objective of it being the world's best website in Spanish for information related to arboriculture. Three sections became available:

- articles and other information to download free of charge;
- extensive links to all other pertinent websites in Spanish related to arboriculture, urban forestry, agro forestry and traditional forestry from around Latin America and Spain;
- a store to purchase information, CDs, ISA training materials, books, tapes, etc. on these topics in Spanish.

2. Began to provide Certified Arborist exams, workshops, programs and training sessions in Spanish on oak wilt identification and management, tree pruning, tree selection, safety, etc., many in Texas associated with regional urban forestry conferences (i.e. Brownsville, El Paso, San Antonio, Midland and Dallas). We recognized that the pass rate for those taking the exam in Spanish was too low. It was determined that part of the problem was that the test questions were not well translated. We wanted to fix that.

3. Translated and edited existing information, along with providing new material for the first phase of the ISAHispana website

What are we doing today and future plans?

Phase II of ISAHispana.com – We are adding many more new links and articles. Because of the great number of them, they are now categorized by subject area, i.e. Safety, Botany, Arboriculture, Nurseries, Natural Resources, Insects and Diseases.

New material and translations– Our committee work plan states that we will “facilitate translation, technology transfer, and distribution of materials in Spanish to consumers, allied professions, arborists, and tree workers.” To that end we:

- Completed translation of the consumer-education brochures; most have been copyedited and posted on ISAHispana.com
- Identified a second qualified translator who is already working on publications
- Are helping Dr. Ed Gilman from UF translate and/or edit his series on Arboriculture- Pruning to Repair Storm Damage, Storm Damage Prevention Pruning, etc.
- Recently completed these products in Spanish:
 - Introduction to Arboriculture series: Tree Worker Safety and Pruning CD-ROMs
 - Best Management Practices - Pruning Audio CD
 - New Arborists' Certification Study Guide
 - ANSI Z133.1 standards booklet
 - Introduction to Arboriculture series: Diagnosis and Disorders CD-ROM
 - Tree Climbers' Guide

- Best Management Practices – Utility Pruning
- Projects still in progress include:
 - Redub the Basic Training video sets
 - Revision and expansion of the Spanish/English dictionary of arboriculture terms

Conferences and workshops - The work plan states that we will work with membership and International Development Committee (IDC) to increase Hispanic membership in ISA and to promote Chapters or Affiliate Organizations (AO) in Spanish-speaking countries. To that end, several conferences and other events were planned in Mexico and Texas. In March, several from ISA HQ BOD and our committee went to Spain for a conference and meetings, and to try to help reactivate the Spanish Chapter. The same is being done in Mexico by several of our members.

Improve Spanish version of the Certified Arborist exam – The work plan states: Work with the ISA Certification department to facilitate development and promotion of exam in Spanish. To that end, new and revised certification questions have been translated by Dr. Alicia Chacalo and will soon be incorporated into a new exam.

Vaya con DIOS.

“If you don't know where you're going any road will get you there.”

– *Alice In Wonderland*

The Latest in Tree Houses for Kids and Adults

by Patrick Wentworth

Probably anyone who has been in the tree care business for any length of time has been asked about tree houses. For adults, it's about being able to harken back to a time in their youth or perhaps a genuine love of trees. For kids, it's the ultimate playscape or an escape from the terrestrial world.

Trees for tree houses should be carefully evaluated and in most cases should be eliminated from having a tree house directly installed into the tree. Most of the tree houses I have helped client design are free standing that are worked up into the tree with few (and often no) physical attachments to the tree itself. I remind customers that their children's attention span towards a tree house is finite and usually lasts less than six or seven years. By making the tree house free standing and doing no harm to the tree, everyone (especially the tree) is happy when this period of their adolescence is over and the tree house is dismantled.

Today a growing number of adults are becoming interested in permanent structures for trees. For a permanent structure physically attached to a tree, the folks at Treehouse Outfitters (www.treehouses.com) have developed the best hardware that allows the tree to grow and move with the wind while providing a quality-engineered design. The Garnier Limb Device is worth checking out if you're thinking about helping a client install a tree house.

The Garnier Limb Device (GLD) is an engineered piece of hardware screwed into the main trunk of a tree. A variety of brackets are available to attach the frame of the tree house to the GLD. These brackets allow for the tree to move in the wind without being constrained by the tree house.



GLD Brackets

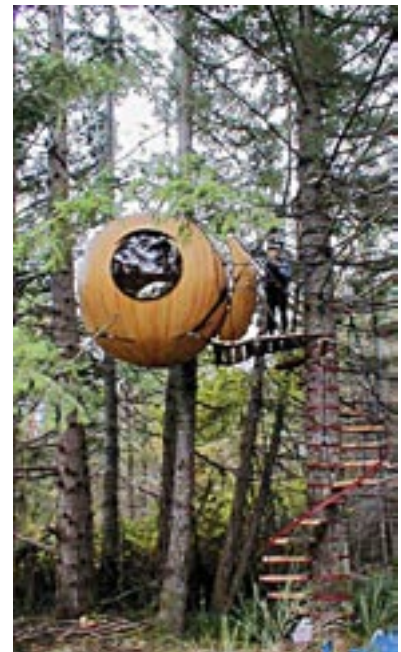
A different approach can be found at www.freespiritspheres.com, where Tom Cudleigh has designed a sphere that can be hoisted up in to a tree. Several models are available, from the inexpensive fiberglass shell pictured below . . .



to this cedar strip shell:



Installed with its own winding staircase (see photo below), the tree house offers a unique getaway for adults as well as children.



Garnier Limb Device

Plant trees. They give us two of the most crucial elements for our survival: oxygen and books.

—A Whitney Brown

Oak Wilt Suppression Project Enters 20th Year

by Ronald F. Billings, Texas Forest Service

Central Texas, well known for its scenic hill country, wildflowers, crystal-clear rivers, and large cattle ranches, is facing a myriad of challenges. Where bison once roamed, retirees and others are seeking home sites with elbow space, creating problems with fragmentation of large ranches, increasing demands for water, and threats of wildfires. Furthermore, live oaks, prized in this arid part of Texas for their stately beauty and welcomed shade, are being threatened by a destructive disease – oak wilt. For the past 25 years or so, the Texas Forest Service (TFS), the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection (USFS/FHP) and others have been managing the oak wilt problem through a program of partnerships and local cooperation.

Oak wilt is caused by a native fungus, *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, a vascular pathogen that kills susceptible trees by blocking the water-conducting system. Live oaks and red oaks are most vulnerable, while post oaks and other oaks in the white oak subfamily are more resistant. Historically, oak wilt also has been a destructive disease problem in the eastern states and Lake States. But the

TFS forester Mark Duff guides landowners on a field tour of an oak wilt center, Kerrville.



greatest impact has been in Central Texas, where oak wilt has killed thousands of live oaks and red oaks in both rural and urban areas within some 60 counties.

New infections of oak wilt occur when spore-bearing insects carry the fungus from infected red oaks to fresh wounds on live oaks. Once a live oak becomes infected with oak wilt, the fungus may spread rapidly from tree to neighboring tree, aided by the interconnected root system that characterizes the live oak stands or “motts” in Central Texas. If not stopped, infection centers may spread 75-100 feet per year, killing or drastically affecting every live oak in their path. Losses are both aesthetic and economic, particularly to urban residents. In cities like Austin and San Antonio, the live oak trees may represent 20% of a property’s value.

To address the oak wilt problem in Texas, TFS initiated an oak wilt demonstration project in 1982 within selected counties of Central Texas, with funding from USFS/FHP. After about five years, the project became a federal suppression project and has expanded to about 40 counties. A cadre of TFS foresters was established throughout Central Texas to combat oak wilt. This was the first presence of TFS in this portion of the state. In 2007, the Oak Wilt Suppression Project will have completed 20 years, one of the longest-lasting federal suppression projects on record. The seven TFS foresters in Central Texas, each responsible for multiple counties, have expanded their duties in recent years to include forest stewardship, tree planting, and other forestry activities, in addition to oak wilt management.

Goals of the Suppression Project have focused on increasing public awareness about oak wilt, identifying and mapping active oak wilt infection centers, and partnering with landowners to contain oak wilt spread. More than 2 million dollars of federal cost shares have been delivered to participating landowners since 1988 as an incentive to treat expanding oak wilt centers. Treatments, consisting of trenching to a depth of 4 feet at a distance of 100 feet in front and completely encircling expanding centers, have been successful in halting oak wilt spread in two out of every three cases. Re-infections or breakouts are often the target of a second treatment.

Digging a 4-foot trench in Central Texas is a costly and

arduous task, since the trees typically grow on top of nearly solid limestone. Massive rock saws or back hoes are often required and costs may range up to \$25 per foot. Individual, high-value trees threatened by oak wilt may be protected with injections of fungicide containing the active ingredient propiconazole, but such treatments are not 100% effective nor do they halt tree-to-tree spread.

To date, the Suppression Project has installed more than 3.36 million feet (637 miles) of trenches to control 2,400 oak wilt centers. This is equivalent to a single trench extending from Fort Worth to El Paso. Achievements in public awareness also have been substantial. An Internet web page devoted to oak wilt management in Texas (<http://www.texasoakwilt.org>) has been developed, representing a partnership among the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, the Houston Advanced Research Center, the National Biological Information Infrastructure, the Texas Chapter of International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), USFS/FHP and TFS. Last year, some 385,000 persons visited the oak wilt web page. Talks to community and neighborhood groups, responding to phone and e-mail inquiries, news releases, and one-on-one site visits are among the many other ways that TFS foresters have spread the word about oak wilt.

In an on-going effort to get the word out to landowners throughout Central Texas, specialists with TFS, Texas Cooperative Extension, and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station have trained various groups of Master Gardeners/Master Naturalists and ISA-certified arborists on the basics of oak wilt identification and management. These volunteers and professionals are now intercepting many of the numerous public inquiries about oak wilt, lessening the burden on the few TFS foresters that deliver the Suppression Project.

On June 4-7, the second National Oak Wilt Symposium (NOWS) will be held in Austin. This symposium will bring together qualified speakers from across the nation to discuss oak wilt biology and management. The symposium will include field tours to observe oak wilt impacts and management in both urban and rural settings. For more information or to register, visit the oak wilt partnership web page at <http://www.texasoakwilt.org>.

Clearly, oak wilt is a long-term problem in Central Texas, one of many challenges facing this region of the state. But, federal and state agencies, in partnership with non-governmental organizations and concerned landowners, are learning to cope with this devastating disease.

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The Internet is packed with information about trees. With each issue, we'll be giving you some samples of places you may want to bookmark on your computer.

<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Information/index.html>

This is a great site giving you tons of information about trees from the US National Arboretum. Use their search engine to tap into this resource. Enter any species of tree and see what comes up.

http://www.umass.edu/larp/pdf/Chaper_6_Cable_Bracing_&_Guying_Final.pdf

This link gives you the basics on cabling and bracing trees.

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_non_non_all.htm

Check out this site to help identify and control common tree diseases

<http://www.forestryimages.org/diseases.cfm>

This site has hundreds of photos of tree diseases to help you with your diagnosis.

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/oakwilt/oakwilt.htm>

USDA Bulletin about oak wilt.

<http://www.palms.org/>

As you might imagine, this site is all about palms from the International Palm Society.

<http://www.realtimerendering.com/trees/trees.html>

This site helps you identify trees.

Here are links to a few of the forestry newsletters available on line:

<http://www.tufc.com/newsletter.pdf>

The spring 2007 issue of *Branching Out*, published by the The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/UF/resources/Insider/20070410.htm>

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Insider, an electronic newsletter of news and information for the urban forest community in Wisconsin and beyond.

http://www.southernforests.org/news_letter.aspx

The Southern Perspective has news from the Southern Group of State Foresters.

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San Antonio Arbor Day



On March 7, I participated in the San Antonio Arbor Day celebration, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and The Home Depot Foundation. The event featured a tree planting of at least 150 large and small trees in John James Park in San Antonio. Around three hundred people/volunteers were in attendance (mostly from local Home Depot stores and school children with their teachers). San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger and other city officials, including San Antonio's new city forester, also participated in the ceremonies.

—Mark L Duff

Attention: Newsletter Contributors

Associate Editor Jeannette Ivy will be out of the office from June 16 through July 7. Please send all articles, photos and other items for the July issue to the Editor, Courtney Blevins, cblevins@tfs.tamu.edu

Thanks!

Advice from a Tree

By Ilan Shamir

Dear Friend,

Stand Tall and Proud

Sink your roots deeply into the Earth

Reflect the light of a greater source

Think long term

Go out on a limb

Remember your place among all living beings

Embrace with joy the changing seasons

For each yields its own abundance

The Energy and Birth of Spring

The Growth and Contentment of Summer

The Wisdom to let go of leaves in the Fall

The Rest and Quiet Renewal of Winter

Feel the wind and the sun

And delight in their presence

Look up at the moon that shines down upon you

And the mystery of the stars at night.

Seek nourishment from the good things in life

Simple pleasures

Earth, fresh air, light

Be content with your natural beauty

Drink plenty of water

Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes

Be flexible

Remember your roots

Enjoy the view!

**THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ISA TEXAS CHAPTER**

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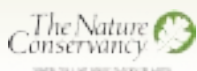
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2nd National Oak Wilt Symposium (NOWS),
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For more information, or to register;
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Contact Mike Walterscheidt at (512)587-7515

or

Gene Gehring at genegehring@hotmail.com